

CLAIMS:

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of
5
1. An apparatus comprising:
a housing defining a slot to receive one of a number of types of removable memory cards, wherein the slot includes a central region of a first height and outer regions of a second height; and
a plurality of electrically conductive contact areas disposed within the housing.
- 10 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of each of the contact areas is disposed within the central region of the slot.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a bias mechanism coupled to the housing to bias a memory card toward the contact areas.
- 15 4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a bias mechanism coupled to the housing within the central region of the slot to bias memory cards toward a first side of the central region of the slot.
- 20 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the bias mechanism biases a memory card to move the memory a distance of at least approximately 3.5 mm from a second side of the central region of the slot.
- 25 6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an insertion stop within the central region of the slot to limit an insertion depth of a memory card of a predetermined width or greater.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing has dimensions substantially conforming to a size specification of a CompactFlash removable memory card.
- 30 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the central region of the slot has a height of approximately 2.8 mm and a width of at least approximately 24 mm.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the outer regions of the slot extend the width of the slot to at least approximately 37 mm and have a height of at least approximately 0.76 mm.

5 10. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an electrically conductive interface for coupling to a memory card reader.

10 11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an electrically conductive interface for coupling the apparatus to a connector for one of a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) bus, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface, a serial interface, a parallel interface, and a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) interface.

15 12. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising circuitry for converting signals received from the contact areas.

20 13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the circuitry converts the signals to conform to one of a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) bus, a Universal Serial Bus (USB), a serial interface, a parallel interface, and a small computer system interface (SCSI) interface.

25 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of contact areas comprises:
a first contact area for electrically coupling to a Smart Media memory card;
a second contact area for electrically coupling to a Memory Stick memory card; and
a third contact area for electrically coupling to a Secure Digital memory card or a MultiMedia memory card.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the slot further includes first outer regions of the second height and second outer regions of a third height.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a housing having dimensions substantially conforming to a size specification of a CompactFlash removable memory card, wherein the housing defines a slot having a central region of a height and a width to receive at least a MemoryStick removable memory card, a SecureDigital removable memory card, and a MultiMedia removable memory card; and
5 a plurality of electrically conductive contact areas disposed within the housing.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the slot includes outer regions that extend the width of the central region to receive a Smart Media removable memory card (SM)

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of each of the contact areas is disposed within the central region of the slot.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a bias mechanism coupled to the housing within the central region of the slot to bias memory cards toward a side of the central region of the slot.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an insertion stop within the central region of the slot to limit an insertion depth of a memory card of a predetermined width or greater.

21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the central region has a first height, and wherein the slot further includes first outer regions of a second height and second outer regions of a third height.

22. An apparatus comprising:

a housing wherein the housing defines a slot having a central region of a height and a width to receive a first removable memory card, first outer regions defining heights and widths to receive a second removable memory card, and second outer regions defining heights and widths to receive a third removable memory card; and
30 a plurality of electrically conductive contact areas disposed within the housing.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the housing defines the slot having the central region of a height and a width to receive a MemoryStick removable memory card, the first outer regions defining heights and widths to receive a MultiMedia removable memory card or a Secure Digital removable memory card, and the second outer regions defining heights and widths to receive a SmartMedia removable memory card.

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